

## COLLECTING TECHNIQUES

### The Coleman Lamp

While in the field with a friend, Mr. E. Bailey, I have noted the use of a technique which I would like to pass on. Mr. Bailey and I have had great success in the use of "sugar" bait at night, combined with the use of a Coleman "Junior" lamp, Model 242B. This is a mantle lantern of 200 watt power.

My own catches of beetles have been richly rewarded by the use of this light. A bright daylight illumination is effected, throwing very few shadows. This almost shadowless light is very important, as one is enabled to walk up to the specimen feeding on the bait mixture, without disturbing it, and capture it with a minimum of effort and eyestrain. It is surprising that such a bright light does not disturb the specimens, as one would expect.

On the whole, a summary of the qualifications of this lamp reveals a distinct advantage over the old coal-oil lantern of Dr. Holland's day; it is economical, easily carried, almost shadowless, extremely bright, and restful to the eyes. The Coleman lamp is moderately priced and its purchase should amply repay the night collector.

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### A Collecting Bottle

If one wishes to have a perfectly clean collecting bottle, the cork may be partially hollowed out and cyanide powder poured in. A cotton stopper will be effective in preventing any of the powder escaping to damage the specimen below. By this method, a fresh supply of poison gas can be provided at any time, and the bottle can be used indefinitely.

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### The Microscope and Plasticine

Working under a microscope, I find plasticine very handy for ventral views of pinned material. I merely roll together about a 2 inch in diameter chunk of plasticine, square it up a bit, and stick the head of the pin possessing the beetle into it. The specimen is easily moved in any direction. One can obtain most of the spectrum colours in plasticine if a certain colour is desirable.

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Another use of plasticine is as a holder for dissecting needles when working under the binocular microscope. If two lumps of plasticine are placed on the stage of the microscope, one for each needle, and the needle handles imbedded in the plasticine, much more accurate and delicate cuts will be possible with the needles. They are particularly useful when dissecting small genitalia.

R.H.A.